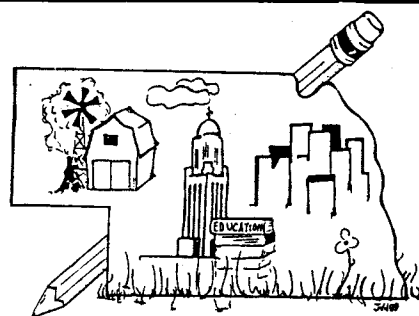


# The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 5, No. 6, June 2, 1990



## Neighbors: Orr Challenger Negligent Landlord

by Frances Mendenhall

Mort Sullivan is the Republican gubernatorial dark horse who took 31 percent of the votes from incumbent Kay Orr in the May primary. The Lincoln Journal referred to him as "politically intoxicated by being the accidental beneficiary of the Republican protest vote against Gov. Orr on May 15." Sullivan spent \$647.95 for his campaign. He plans to run in November as a write-in candidate.

Sullivan also ran for mayor in 1989 primary and received 138 or 0.14 percent of the votes. Previously he had run for city council in 1981.

Sullivan is a businessman who owns Faxtel Corporation, which operates Call Suzie, a telephone information service.

On forms filed with the election commissioner's office, he listed these sources of income above \$1,000: Mort Associates Limited (business consulting and sales), and Eastroads Inc. (land development project).

Sullivan has also derived income from rental properties in Omaha. Although the properties are listed in his mother's name, Jaqueline Sullivan, people who live near the properties know him as the landlord.

One piece of Sullivan's property, 1329 Connell Ct. was condemned by the city on



Debris on the porch of 1329 Connell Court

May 25. Inspector Gary Bengtson had visited the house and found it open and vandalized. Housing Manager Richard Cottage called the

property "a hazard, a nuisance, and uninhabitable." One neighbor, Claire Spelic who resided at 1305 Connell Ct. until recently, testified relating to similar problems with Sullivan's property in the past. Spelic's son now owns the property immediately adjacent to the Sullivan property and is in the process of moving the house to another site.

According to Cottage, when Sullivan was running for mayor, another piece of property in his mother's name was condemned and appealed by Mrs. Sullivan. After the condemnation appeal was denied, Sullivan called and wrote to the planning department threatening to take the jobs of Cottage and others if he became mayor.

City Inspector Bengtson has a note he received from Sullivan attached to the certificate Sullivan had recently gotten licensing him as a private detective. "I am now going to proceed forward to investigate the people as promised! P.S. There are going to be some pretty unhappy people once all the evidence is gathered and turned over to the law enforcement agency," the note said.

Neither Sullivan nor his mother attended the May 25 condemnation hearing. When contacted by this reporter, he did not admit any knowledge of the condemnation and re-

fused comment.

Not all of the neighbors in houses near the Sullivan house had complaints. One, who wouldn't give his name, said Sullivan had helped him, and that he was the only one (of the absentee landlords in the neighborhood) who told the truth. Ed Dooley, 2724 S. 13th street, described Sullivan as "just a businessman who didn't hurt or help the neighborhood." Maxine Coco, however, who until recently lived at 1321 Connell Ct., recalled both Sullivan and his mother: "he was no good; she was worse." Coco said Sullivan made no improvements on his property.

Both Coco and Spelic described Sullivan as holding up potential development by refusing to sell property for use for a future food store.

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## Kerrey's Role In N-Waste Dump

by Frances Mendenhall

Environmental gunslinger Hugh Kaufman says that Nebraska's limousine liberals are angry with him because he has been targeting Sen. Bob Kerrey lately in the debate over placing the nuke dump in Boyd County. As governor in 1983 Kerrey signed the state on to the Central Interstate Low-level Radioactive Waste Compact.

Early April, the shots started coming; Kaufman challenged Kerrey on an ETV program to prove that the state of Nebraska could legally license the dump since, according to Kaufman, a 1966 agreement between Nebraska and the Atomic Energy Commission, the forerunner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, holds that authority for the federal government and exempts only states that have enacted certain qualifying regulations. Kerrey denied it, citing rulings by the U.S. attorney general and Nebraska's attorney general. Kaufman claims that the rulings do not exist and mincing no words called Kerrey a liar.

The dump, according to Kaufman, could never be licensed if it had to meet the more stringent federal regulations. Nebraska's Department of Environmental Control claims

that a Feb. 7, 1990 memo from the NRC states that Nebraska does not need to amend its 1966 agreement in order to license and regulate the facility.

Kaufman and dump opponent Lynn Moorer have also been demanding information about who will issue permits and how any facilities will be regulated.

The Save Boyd County Association, comprised of dump opponents, also has expressed a desire to hold both Kerrey and Governor Orr equally accountable on the nuclear waste issue. Kerrey was asked to get information from US Ecology about the criteria used in selecting Boyd County that the citizens' group had by itself been unable to obtain.

Until current public questioning of his involvement in the location of a nuclear dump in Nebraska, Kerrey had made only one recent public statement on the issue, contained in a speech on the Senate floor in March in which he defended the Compact and the siting.

After the Save Boyd County Association members challenged Kerrey at a public meeting April 21 in Spencer to provide information and answers to may unresolved issues,

Kerrey has opened up communications with US Ecology which appear to attempt to hold the company more accountable. In an April 24, 1990, letter, Kerrey asked US Ecology vice president Rich Paton to provide "specific information which led (US Ecology) to conclude that Boyd County was the best and

*Continued on page 5*

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# Who Are the School Finance Bill Opponents?

by Frances Mendenhall

For as long as anyone can remember Nebraskans have been complaining about property taxes which are heavily relied upon to run our schools. Now comes LB 1059, the school finance bill, the product of years of effort and horse trading by Sen. Ron Withem. The bill, by raising state sales and income taxes, makes it possible for the schools, counties, and other political subdivisions to lower property tax.

LB 1059 will raise state sales tax by 25 percent and state income tax by 17.5 percent. It also provides for equalization of the education tax burden so that school districts that are poor in taxable property do not have to resort to a disproportionately high property tax to meet their expenses. Poorer districts like this, rich ones do not. The bill also requires affiliation of certain school districts, in an attempt to address Nebraska's long standing problem of too many school districts.

The bill has spawned committed opposition from a variety of places, and an attempt to get 28,000 signatures by July 9 required for the repeal of LB 1059 to be placed on the November ballot. Opponents include Sen. Ernie Chambers and "Fight Back," a group which includes some members of the Nebraska Schools Improvement Association, opponents of school reorganization. The group to keep an eye on, however, is Nebraskans Against Higher Taxes.

Don Adams is the paid campaign manager of Nebraskans Against Higher Taxes. The group has hired an agency, PRA of Omaha, to run its campaign. Adams guaranteed the \$10,000 loan that is, as this is being written, the only named source of financial support for the group. Adams is a former lobbyist for FirstTier and America First, and a retired Air Force colonel. The group has not yet said who the other financial backers are, although, as Sen. Withem points out, since Adams was willing to take out a loan, it is likely that there are others who have promised to help foot the bills. Martha Anderson, speaking for the group, told this reporter that the names of the other backers would be disclosed May 31.

Cathy Scott of Nebraskans Against Higher Taxes confirmed one name in the group: Howard Silber, who now works for PRA. Silber is the retired military affairs editor for the Omaha World-Herald. Silber was undoubtedly among the World-Herald executives who favored LB 775, the tax breaks for corporations and stockholders enacted in 1987. For several years before his retirement, Silber was listed among the Herald stockholders who owned 1 percent or more of the employee owned stock. LB 775 must have benefited Silber, since in 1988 he would have paid less in capital gains when he sold back his World-Herald stock.

After his retirement Silber joined forces with PRA. At that time PRA was promoting the cause of the nuke dump supporters, Nebraskans Against 402. Their \$1.7 million funding came from Arkansas Power & Light, Louisiana Power & Light, and Gulf State Utilities. Less than 1 percent of this money came from Nebraskans. Support for the nuke dump also was packaged as the efforts of grassroots Nebraskans long enough to stage a defeat for Initiative 402 and keep Nebraska in the Compact, but now, according to the most recent World-Herald poll, only 31 percent of Nebraska voters surveyed favor building the nuke dump here.

PRA worked with Winner/Wagner & Mandebach of Los Angeles for Nebraskans Against 402. Both their colleagues and financing were from other states. PRA was also

hired briefly by the Denver Water Board to promote the Two Forks project. Again, PRA said it had names of Nebraskans who supported the project.

The firm is owned by William S. Arendt, also a key player in Nebraskans Against Higher Taxes.

If PRA's public relations work is like previous efforts we can expect heavy reliance on ads. As of PRA's May 8 filing with the Accountability and Disclosure Commission, it had spent \$6,719 of the \$10,000 raised for newspaper ads. PRA imitates grassroots citizens organization by getting citizens to allow their names to be used in these ads, but don't expect those who sign on to be very knowledgeable about the issues. They might also arrange meetings with officials and their own leaders, bringing along a citizens' spokesperson for appearance sake, but depending on their own people to do the talking.

It is likely that Nebraskans Against Higher Taxes will rally a broad-based group of officers. Some of these will be genuinely motivated. Many will be going along for the ride. Those with the most serious financial commitment, besides those already named, will probably have close links with the Chamber of Commerce and the manufacturing industry.

## Department of Revenue

In late April the Department of Revenue sent a mailing out to taxpayers who estimate quarterly. Some were shocked to see the size in their increased estimate. Taxpayer Chuck

Powell reacted strongly; he vowed to sign the petition and join forces with Ed Jaksha. Understandably, since the cover letter attributed the increases to the passage of LB 1059, Chuck blamed the new law. What wasn't explained adequately was that the increases reflected not only LB 1059, but "catch-up" increases in the estimates that were necessary because of Nebraska's tax law changes in 1987 decoupling its tax formula from the federal forms, among other things. Certain categories including married couples and any itemizers were getting a big bill in April instead of keeping up quarterly. Some saw increases in estimated taxes of 69 percent, but James Garver of the Revenue Department said that only 25 percent of the overall increase was caused by other factors than LB 1059. Those who were hit harder like Chuck Powell may have been few in number, but they reacted strongly, and LB 1059 opponents benefited from their reaction.

LB 1059 is a complicated bill, the product of a consensus. It is possible that lawmakers may tinker with it in the future, or adjust for flaws. For now, it is the only hope for remedying our unbalanced way of financing education, a problem that most Nebraskans complain about. They should be slow to reject it and quick to see through the smoke and hype that will accompany the discussion as we draw near to the July 9 deadline for gathering signatures.

## Observer Deadlines

*The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published June 27.*

*We must receive your story ideas by June 15.*

*Copy is due June 20.*

*Story ideas for the July 25 edition are due July 13.*

*Copy is due July 18.*

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The Nebraska Observer is distributed monthly by the Nebraska Citizens' Publishing Group, a non-profit corporation.

Letters and manuscripts may be sent to:

P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, NE 68131

They should include the author's phone number and address. Works may be published under a pseudonym at the discretion of the editor.

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# ConAgra Should Help Open Riverfront to All

by Mark Himes

The May 20th edition of the Omaha World-Herald provided the first genuinely good news to come out of the Riverfront Redevelopment project since its announcement.

"Central Park East," the oddly-titled public portion of the development, will be renamed "Heartland of America Park." The new name will commemorate the \$1.5 million Heartland of America fountain, a 250-foot animated geyser with red, white and blue lights, which will be the park's focal point.

The World-Herald article also announced that completion and dedication of the park and fountain have again been delayed. The park was to have been completed last summer. Various problems have delayed construction and forced rescheduling of dedication plans which will now coincide with River City Roundup in late September. When plans for the Heartland of America fountain were announced, a World-Herald editorial proclaimed, "Omaha's riverfront...will have a new crown jewel that evoke the vision and spirit of the Midlands," and suggested that "as a joint project of ConAgra and Douglas County, the Heartland of America fountain should be a splendid symbol of... cooperation." Then on the front page of the May 27 Sunday World-Herald we learned of a new riverfront project being considered by Union Pacific and the Leo A. Daly Co. to be built on the property where the now unused U.P. shops are. The park they are proposing will have a lake and marina, including a hotel with boat docks, connected by a canal to the Missouri River, apartments, restaurants and stores, a children's museum, a greenhouse, a botanical center, and a museum which could serve as a new home for the Strategic Air Command Museum.

Somehow the new proposal from Union Pacific doesn't seem new. Wasn't the original riverfront development project, now called Central Park East, to be the development to end all developments? If Central Park East had been developed as other cities have done with similar projects, including more active components and public access to the river, we wouldn't have to be just dreaming about those things now.

It's not too late. Since the completion of the park is now to be delayed until next September, some basic changes could be made to the "setting" of that "jewel," and the fountain's value as a symbol of cooperation will be more authentic.

Here are three suggestions.

## A Public Lake Shore

The "Heartland of America" lake, which the fountain will dominate, is bounded on two sides by the public park and on two sides by ConAgra's private campus. Under the design terms dictated by ConAgra, the public will

not have access from the park to either the southern or western sides of the lake. Ken Carter, the park's chief designer, described the separation between the public and private areas as a "Berlin Wall" which, he hopes, will be removed some day.

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation to be symbolized by the fountain, or, at least to allow the public a better view of the fountain, lake and park for which taxpayers will pay nearly \$20 million, it seems reasonable to request that ConAgra allow changes in the park design that will provide complete public access to the entire lake shore. What better way to thank the people of Omaha and Douglas County for our elected officials' unstinting generosity than to afford us the privilege of standing on the western shore of the lake we paid for, looking east through the wind-blown mist of the fountain we pay to maintain, to the sunrise over the great Missouri River. The ability to correct this flaw in the park is entirely Mike Harper's. It would be a very cooperative gesture.

## Recreational Usage

There is another defect in the park's plan that only Mr. Harper can remedy. Again at ConAgra's dictate, the park can be used only for "passive" activities. Essentially, as now designed, the park is for walking and looking. The Central Park Mall was envisioned and designed as that type of park. However, when Douglas County applied to the federal government for the money that was used to purchase the riverfront park site, materials submitted with the application claimed that the park would provide urban recreational space to foster the development of downtown neighborhoods.

Obviously, plans changed and with a large part of the park submerged, the "active" recreational potential for the space remaining is limited. But even this small park, with complete lake shore access and a release from the restriction on active recreation, could accommodate a jogging/fitness trail, a playground, or a couple of sand volleyball or tennis courts. Despite its limitations, the park could yet serve as a recreational resource to enhance downtown Omaha's growing attractiveness as a residential area.

## What Cincinnati Got

Cincinnati's Riverfront Park, which is remarkably similar in size and location to Omaha's, features: a performance area with a beautiful granite and fabric performance platform donated by Proctor and Gamble (a similar structure in Omaha would be prohibited by the park's design restrictions), a fitness area; a skating rink with warming pavilion; eight tennis courts; a tennis pavilion; two volleyball courts; a fishing pier; a rowing center with boat house and docks; three separate rest room locations; a restaurant; an amphitheater; and a children's adventure play area. All of this is beautifully integrated into

a park setting featuring: a great lawn; a river walk; a monumental main entrance with fountains and sculpture; "Summer" and "Winter" gardens; a "Heritage" garden; a "Romantic" garden; and a "Fantasy" garden. This description is offered only to indicate what can be achieved when a relatively small park is thoughtfully planned to provide active as well as passive uses.

The restriction on active use for the park could be lifted through a cooperative agreement between ConAgra, the city, and the county. No elected official has yet dared to oppose the wishes of Harper and ConAgra. Again, the ball, is in ConAgra's court.

## The Magic of the River

There is one final, major flaw in the design of the riverfront park. The park is sealed off from the Missouri River. Thomas L. Findlay, vice president of design for Daly, in the May 27 World-Herald article alluded to this sad fact when he described the U.P. project as "...the last chance to get down to the river in our lifetimes," an observation that probably won't be repeated at September's dedication ceremonies.

This is a defect that may well be corrected at some point, but again, fixing it now could make the dedication for the "riverfront" park a good deal more meaningful. County Board Chairman Mike Albert is among the many who have lauded the ConAgra/River-

front project as "the culmination of the 'Return to the River' plan launched in the 1970s." Unfortunately, due to the complex legal situation surrounding ConAgra's destruction of the Jobbers Canyon Historic District, access to the river was left out of the design for the new park.

The official explanation for the lack of river access was prohibitive cost. At one point ConAgra was said to have offered \$250,000 to help finance an overlook structure on the river bank. Ironically, although lack of river access is only indirectly attributable to ConAgra, here, once again, Mr. Harper can help provide a remedy. Considering that the cost of the park has risen from \$8 million to almost \$20 million, and that still we easily found the money to pay for a commemorative fountain. perhaps, through cooperation, we can find a way to actually complete our return to the Missouri River.

When the Heartland of America Park and its fountain are dedicated in September (?), the spirit of cooperation between ConAgra and the community will be extolled by countless elected officials and assorted dignitaries. No one will mention that because of the shortcomings in the present park, people have already started planning a second park that will actually serve the community. But, with a few simple changes and improvements in the park's design, the spirit of cooperation can be accompanied by at least some spirit of truth and integrity.

## MY MISSION IN LIFE

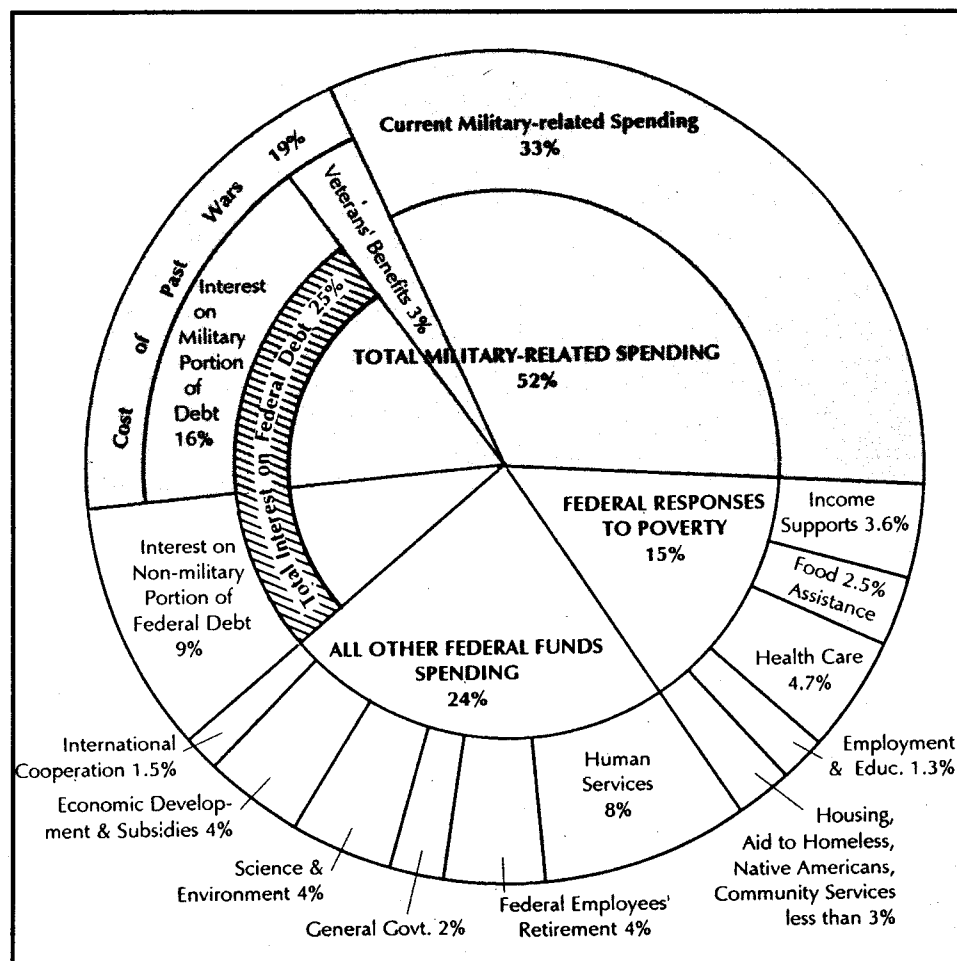
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*If your teeth are in need of comforting,  
please call for an appointment.*

*Frances Mendenhall*

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# How to Read a Pie: Bush's Funds Proposal



## SLICES OF THE PIE

### The Military Slice: 52 Percent

*Current Military Spending* (33 percent) includes the Department of Defense, the nuclear weapons systems handled by the Department of Energy, independent agencies with military functions (such as the CIA and the Selective Service System), and foreign military aid and training.

*Cost of Past Wars* (19 percent) includes the cost of veterans' services and interest on the military portion (58.3 percent) of the federal debt.

### Interest on the Debt: 25 Percent

The non-military portion of this is 9 percent. The military portion (16 percent) is included in the military slice.

### Responses to Poverty: 15 Percent

This category includes all the programs that are designed primarily for people whose incomes are below the federal poverty line.

### All Other Federal Funds: 24 Percent

This category includes health and education programs that are available to people of all income levels, plus all environmental programs, scientific research, economic development, international cooperation, and general government functions.

*Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation*

This pie chart represents the President's proposal for how Congress ought to authorize the spending of federal funds. This pie is based on "budget authority," or permission to spend—not "outlays," or actual spending. Budget authority approved in one year might not all get spent in the same year. Budget authority is the best indicator of the *policies* the President is recommending. For example, a major increase

in budget authority for low-income housing would indicate a strong commitment to the objective of ending homelessness—even though the actual spending, or "outlays," for those programs might not catch up to the new policy for a few years.

The President says that military spending equals only about one-fourth of the budget. How can our figure be so much higher? The President includes in his "pie" all income man-

aged by the federal treasury, whether or not Congress has anything to say about how it is spent. Thus, the President's pie includes the Social Security Trust Fund—a very large fund, larger than military spending—along with other, smaller trust funds. In the President's larger pie, the same number of dollars for military spending appears to make a relatively smaller piece.

# Solution of Homeless: Out of Sight, Out of Mind

by Norris Alfred

The most disheartening statement of the week was made by Anita Beatty, director of the Georgia task force on the homeless, who was confronted with the problem of the homeless in Atlanta, Ga., parks and near state government buildings (considered possible tourist attractions) and forcibly removed them to less conspicuous locations. Beatty was quoted: "We've decided politically as a city to get rid of the homeless problem, not to solve it."

That didn't get rid of the homeless problem, only acerbated it. Her statement indicates a trend away from an idealistic, self-sacrificing life of help for others to a self-serving ambition described as "looking out for No. 1." This degradation of our humanity was emphasized during President Reagan's reign, proof of which was in the number of administration officials indicted in those eight years.

Democratic government in the United States pays lip service to individual worth while

pragmatically viewing some of us as having more worth than others. I am not referring to the Internal Revenue Service, an agency that accepts individual declarations of worth and, from experience, questions the veracity of figures submitted by some. The worth under consideration is human, not monetary.

Formation of democratic government was a grand idea. After more than 200 years it is still being formed by changes resulting from events. Responsible democratic government needs flexibility and finds numerous opportunities for practicing it while maintaining self-determination as the guiding principle.

For years my weekly newspaper championed compassion as an accurate measure of democratic success or failure. "Success" is not only a tricky word; it is a trigger word. It evokes varying images, depending on the individual. In reference to democratic government, success should be in terms of concern for the individual. The more compassionate the concern, the greater the success. Opportunities for suffering are multiplying

rapidly in these democratic United States and our compassionate response should multiply just as rapidly.

The homeless are evoking less and less compassion. They are not viewed as the result of democratic government failure but as individual failure. While sight of them on streets and in parks is proof of city, state and government indifference to their plight, the official attitude has hardened to an out-of-sight, out-of-mind solution.

According to news stories, colleges and universities are graduating fewer idealists and more pragmatists. I hope that isn't true. Perhaps those stories were written by newpersons who had experienced sleepless nights suffering from indigestion and the morning light showed a bleak world of greedy competition by self-seekers hoping to be the richest corpses in cemeteries.

Reporters and the owners of the media circulating the news are also individuals. Those reporting the news are trained to be objective, but because the quantity of it now available is

overwhelming, what we read and hear has been subjectively selected.

Those in the business of reporting, editing and disseminating the news maintain a watchful eye on government and rightly resist any attempts to limit freedom of the press. While on guard they need to be mindful of the fact that freedom of the press includes freedom not to print and therein lie the seeds of censorship, political bias, racial injustice, dishonesty -- name it, it's there. These seeds are individually nurtured.

It is to the everlasting credit of the news industry in the United States (and it is an industry) that the integrity of the news we read and hear is maintained, with a minimum of exceptions. There are some SOB's in the news business, but they are easily identified because their own words expose them.

Obviously, the report of what happened to the homeless in Atlanta, Ga., appeared in the newspapers because a reporter understood the news value of the inhumanity of that action and statement by Beatty.



# Manual Norge Owner Should Stick to Maytag

Dear Lulu:



Noriega and boyfriend of Vicky Amado, among others. While there are some similarities with your old manual Norge (both are short, stocky and pock-marked), your Norge worked better, looked better and was less agitated. Nevertheless, stick with your Maytag. Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu: My idol is Margaret Tutwiler, spokeswoman for President Bush. Where could I go to learn to speak in that low, expressionless monotone for which Ms. Tutwiler is most famous? I also would like to be a "Woman of the '90s" like Marilyn Ringo or Kay Orr. Is it possible?

Searching in Scottsbluff.

Dear Searching: Ma Joad's School of Expression in Yankton, S.D. pumped out Ms. Tutwiler. Other famous graduates include Alice C. Tolklas, voice of AT&T ("The number you have dialed has been disconnected") and Miss Goody Two Socks, Sandy Duncan. Concerning Marilyn Ringo, smile and get a lobotomy. As for "Miss Kay," as we call her, well, you know. You'll do fine. Best of luck. Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu: I'm a Republican and I've decided I should start dressing like a Republican. I've noticed that the President and Vice President sort of wear clothes that look alike. Is there some law that controls this?

Sincerely, Esquire from Elwood.

Dear Esquire: The attire of Republicans and Democrats alike is governed by the Red Tie Pact, or RTP, signed secretly in 1923 by Calvin Coolidge. The Pact requires red ties and black suits of all politicians. A violation of the Pact usually means that a Congressman must actually speak at a speaking engagement for which he is paid or turn in a 6,000-word report on the latest country he visited at the taxpayers' expense. Love, Lulu.

Lulu Marie Gotcha is a close friend and client of Norfolk, Neb. lawyer Dennis Collins. For years, Lulu's family asked her advice about various problems they had. Finally, the demand for her help was so great that she decided to branch out. So far, however, no one in the "mainstream" press would even look at Lulu (although only Republican papers were asked). Dennis asked us to help launch Lulu's career as an advice columnist for the '90s. Who knows? People other than Lulu's family might start writing to her.

Dear Lulu: Why all this fuss about a manual Norge they've found in Panama that's worth millions? I had one on the farm and deliberately left it there when we moved to town. My Maytag has been much better. But, if it's worth all that much money, I'll go back out and get mine this next Sunday. What do you think?

Love, Wondering in Wayne.

Dear Wondering: I think you're confused. The news is talking about General Manuel Antonio Noriega, husband of Felicida Fiero

Dear Lulu: I've found a really handy hint if your husband snores. My little round hubby always sleeps on his back and he used to roar and snore all night long. I tried everything, cluding kicking him in the back. Finally, I found the solution. I superglued his mouth shut after he fell asleep. It worked like a charm! Hope this helps some of your readers. I just love your column!

Love, Peaceful in Plattsmouth

Dear Peaceful: I'll bet it's also done wonders for your food bill. Thanks for the hint. Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu: Since I've had the new baby my husband wants to know when we can resume marital relations. My doctor suggested six weeks. My mother says I never have to do it again. What do you think I should or should not do?

Love, Angst in Ainsworth.

Dear Angst: "Resume our marital relations" implies it was at a certain speed before. How fast was it? Were you on cruise? Were you speeding? Does your speed control work? How is his footfeed? Do you have a stick shift? Considering all these options, your mother is undoubtedly right, as usual. Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu: I'm very worried. I have a stressful job, a sick husband and a dog that bites me. I don't eat my shredded wheat the way they do in the TV commercials. One day I want Pepsi, the next day Coke. I'm chewing raw oat bran. Even my laundry detergent has saturated fat. My toilet tissue's not as soft as it should be. What's wrong with me? What can I do?

Love, Bug-Eyed in Bellevue.

Dear Bug-Eyed: Quit your job. Put your husband in a home. Shoot the dog. Turn off the TV. You're nuts. Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu: I went to work today and was all excited because it was my 18th year at the job. I was sure there would be congratulations and a cake and festivities all around. Instead, nobody mentioned it, the phone wouldn't shut up, I was offended by at least 12 customers and my boss decided to take off early because "he was tired." I'm afraid this is the rut I'm going to be in for the rest of my life! What should I do?

Love, Cranky in Cozad.

Dear Cranky: What do I look like -- a miracle worker? You're getting old, you're boring and you're stuck. Wake up and smell the Lysol. This is it. It gets no better. Get used to it and shape up. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to unload on you, but I've been getting a lot of whiny letters lately. Please consider a little Drano in your boss's cup tomorrow. It may help. Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu: I seem to be having a small problem with my dear, sweet husband Carl. He keeps coming home at 3:00 in the morning, smelling like Evening in Paris, with lipstick on his ears. He says he's attending emergency Rotary meetings. I find this hard to believe since he's in Kiwanis. Do you suppose his memory's slipping? What should I do?

Love, Perplexed in Pender

Dear Perplexed: It sounds like Carl is suffering from that age-old disease, stupidity. The most common prescription is for you to take some of Carl's money and spend a long vacation in Mexico, without Carl, followed by a diamond necklace. If this doesn't work, shoot him. Love, Lulu.

## Kerrey's Nuke Dump Site Role

Continued from page 1

only site suitable in Nebraska." He also threatened to withdraw his support for the Compact if the information was not forthcoming.

Kaufman says that even though Kerrey is using his office to gather information that US Ecology to this point had refused to provide, the senator still advocates the Compact siting a facility in Boyd County. He also regards Kerrey's previous involvement in a video company, "Bates Video," which held a \$41,000 contract with the Compact as a conflict of interest. Kerrey got out of the company in 1988 but his brother-in-law is still an owner in the company.

Moorer noted that Kerrey continues to have no objection to US Ecology having the dump developer as long as the state holds the contract privately with US Ecology rather than the Compact holding the contract. She

says her investigation of data files on record at Sheffield, Ill., where a previous US Ecology dump leaked, and in North Carolina, where US Ecology was denied a permit, shows the company is incompetent to operate a dump safely and the company's shaky financial position places Nebraska taxpayers at risk even further if US Ecology attempts to build a dump in Nebraska.

The Save Boyd County Association thinks it has had an effect on Kerrey. A headline in a recent newsletter reads "Kerrey Responds to Pressure."

Kaufman apparently has lumped Kerrey in with other Nebraska officials whom he regards as amateur, and likely to "trip over their own penises." He also believes that Kerrey lacks substance and that this controversy could destroy his chances at the presidency.

**What is the difference  
between  
Jane Fonda  
and Dan Quayle?**

(Answer on page 7)

# Senate Ag Committee Marks Up Farm Bill

by Chuck Hasebrook, Center for Rural Affairs

The Senate Agriculture Committee adopted a landmark family farm provision written by Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD), which directs that federally funded agricultural research aim at advancing several broad purposes, including:

- strengthening the moderate-sized family farm system of agriculture and increase economic opportunity in farming and rural communities;

- enhancing environmental quality, human health and longterm food security;

- enhancing the efficiency, profitability and competitiveness of US farms.

## The Research Title

Several procedures would ensure that USDA and land grant colleges effectively comply

with this legislation. The most important of these would require that decisions on proposals for competitive grants be based on the extent to which those proposals advance the above purposes. Researchers would also be required to show which of these or other purposes are being served when initiating new research. The House Subcommittee rejected an amendment offered by Representative Jim Jontz (D-IN) to include similar provisions in its bill, insuring further debate on the issue.

**Sustainable Agriculture Research** -- Under the leadership of Senator Leahy and Representative George Brown (D-CA), the Senate Committee and House Subcommittee have both authorized \$40 million annually for sustainable agriculture research, about nine times the current spending level of \$4.45 million. Although the final decision on fund-

ing levels must be made separately by the Appropriations Committee, the higher authorization provides momentum for a higher appropriation. Both the House and Senate would also broaden the program to include matching grants for state-sustainable agriculture programs, such as Iowa's Leopold Center. The House bill would also place some emphasis on sustainable agriculture in the larger USDA competitive research grants program. However, the effect of that is weakened by a watered-down definition of sustainable agriculture. The House Research Subcommittee also adopted a Jontz amendment to create an extension program to assist farmers in converting to sustainable agriculture, and authorized \$40 million for sustainable agriculture extension efforts. Both the House and Senate would train all extension agents on sustainable agriculture.

## The Conservation Title

The Agriculture Committee also has completed the conservation title of its 1990 Farm Bill. It includes many provisions supported by the Center and the Sustainable Agriculture Working Group.

The Committee adopted a compromise version of Senator Wyche Fowler's (D-GA) Integrated Crop Management Program option. Farmers who implement sustainable farm plans would be eligible for:

- Reduced or waived set-asides, to the extent the plan reduces production.

- Payments and base protection on crop-base acres planted to conserving crops, like small grain legume mixtures or a green manure crop.

- Waiver of cross-compliance allowing farmers to plant a program crop for which

they have no base without loss of payments on other crops.

The proposal was weakened by two amendments, one preventing payments on harvested forage crops, the other eliminating base adjustments for farmers with low crop bases due to use of conserving crop rotations.

The Senate bill also allows the Secretary of Agriculture to expand the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to 50 million acres. Eligible land would be expanded to include long-term easements on partial fields dedicated to field wind breaks, shelter belts and contour grass strips, critical ground water protection areas such as sinkholes and well fields, and certain cropped wetlands.

The Secretary could also purchase voluntary easements to provide permanent protection on the most highly erodible land after the 10-year CRP. A new voluntary water quality protection program would also pay farmers up to \$3,500 per year over five years to implement water protection plans in critical areas.

Finally, a reasonable compromise was reached on conservation compliance. Tenants who made a good-faith effort to practice soil conservation but are frustrated by uncooperative landlords, would not lose farm program benefits on other farms.

The Center will prepare an analysis of the House and Senate farm bills after each is passed, but before they are merged into one bill by conference committees.

*(Editor's note: Readers who wish a copy of the Farm Bill Analysis may obtain one by sending \$3 to the Center for Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 405, Walthill, NE 68067. The analysis will be delayed if Congressional action is delayed.)*

## GATT Could Reduce Credit Opportunities for New Farmers

From the Center for Rural Affairs

Since the 1930s the federal government, through the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), has provided production and farm ownership loans to families unable to obtain credit elsewhere. While FmHA's "emergency" lending programs, initiated in the late 1970s, have drawn deserved criticism from the public and the press, FmHA's basic lending programs do a good job of providing economic opportunity and entry into agriculture.

Many state governments have also been providing carefully (and not so carefully) targeted farm ownership loans to beginning farmers since the late 1970s. These state and federal agricultural credit initiatives may soon be subjected to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) disciplines.

In October 1989, the United States Trade Representative submitted a comprehensive proposal in GATT which singled out input and investment subsidies as a distinct category for negotiation. These subsidies were distinguished because they "offer a lesser production incentive" than say, deficiency payments and other income supports which would be eliminated under the U.S. proposal. Because input and investment subsidies are still capable of causing production and trade distortions, the U.S. argued that these forms of support should be subjected to GATT Disciplines and reduced.

The new GATT disciplines would apply to federal, as well as state level agricultural credit programs. It would affect agricultural input and investment programs in the European Community, Mexico, India, Thailand, Australia, Japan, Canada, Korea and other nations currently offering this form of support.

In preparation for a March 19th meeting of the GATT Agricultural Negotiating Group to

clarify each other's positions, the U.S. responded in writing to a series of questions posed by the group. The answers shed some light on the intended range, means of measurement and reduction of input and investment subsidies.

Included in the input and investment subsidy category, for example, are FmHA operating and ownership loans using subsidized interest rates, debt or interest rate forgiveness programs as in the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, loan guarantees, water subsidies, subsidized grazing programs, seed fuel and fertilizer subsidies.

The level of support provided by these programs would be measured in the aggregate -- adding together, for example, the budgetary cost of loan restructuring, write-offs from guaranteed loans, water and other subsidies to obtain an Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS). AMS (in nominal terms with no adjustment for inflation) would be progressively reduced.

## No Strings on Yeutter?

The May 24th Lincoln Journal noted pointedly that Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter "may have a comfortable personal harbor into which to sail after leaving Washington's insider precincts." An extensive article in Regardie's magazine about the rise and fall of a large national law firm embracing Omaha and Lincoln lawyers revealed that Yeutter was offered a \$500,000 a year post by Con-Agra prior to accepting appointment as the Bush administration's secretary of agriculture. The Journal reminded its readers that another former Nebraskan, Clifford Hardin, went with another ag corporate giant, Ralston Purina, after leaving as USDA chief in the Nixon administration.

## Missing Issue

The Observer's archive file is down to 2 copies of the June 28, 1989 issue (Volume 4, Number 6.) If you have one to spare, please call us at 551-2629

# U.S. Health Care: Paying More and Getting Less

*This article was originally published by Citizen Action News.*

It has become obvious that the current health system is a disaster. Band-aid approaches will only make it worse. The only solution is comprehensive reform.

The first step toward reform is Congressional action. Citizen Action organizations in 25 states are seeking congressional cosponsors for a resolution to demonstrate the urgency of the public's demand for solutions. And in the coming months, Citizen Action will put a spotlight on the most serious health care problems.

## Health Care Costs are Out of Control

America leads the world in health spending by any measure. Not only are costs high,

health care inflation is out of control.

-America spends more than 11 percent of its GNP on health care, 50 percent more than the average for all other industrialized nations.

-In the last 20 years health care costs have been increasing at three times the rate of inflation.

-In 1989, the nation's health care bill was \$600 billion -- nearly \$2 billion per day and more than \$2,000 per person.

## Millions of Americans are Watching Their Coverage Shrink

In addition to the 37 million Americans not covered by health insurance at all, according to Congressional estimates as many as 60 to 70 million people are underinsured, and it

is getting worse every year:

-Since 1980, the employee share of health insurance has increased by 50 percent.

-Between 1984 and 1988 the number of employers requiring deductibles of more than \$100 more than doubled.

-Five million insured women of child-bearing age are not covered for pregnancy.

-At least 72 percent of workers are covered by plans that deny them full freedom to choose their doctors.

## Waste and Inefficiency are Rampant

Given how much Americans spend on health care, you would expect them to be the healthiest people in the world. Yet by most measures the United States lags behind the industrial world. The medical systems in some countries are producing better results even though they are spending less than half the United States spends per capita:

-The United States ranks 22nd in infant mortality, eighth in life expectancy, 18th in

child mortality, 11th in maternal mortality, 21st in infant immunization against measles and 100th in infant immunization against polio.

-Some experts estimate that between 40,000 and 83,000 people die each year while undergoing unnecessary surgical procedures.

## The Solution: A Comprehensive National Health Program

We can get more and pay less. Other nations do. In 1971 when Canada adopted its national health program, Canadians and Americans spent the same share of their incomes on health care. Today, Americans pay an additional 3 percent of their incomes for health care -- equal to \$1,200 per household.

The only opposition comes from special interests like insurance companies who profit from the current bankrupt system. They have launched a multimillion dollar propaganda campaign to fool the public, and are among the leading givers of campaign contributions.

## Center for Rural Affairs Announces Two Employment Opportunities

### Micro Loan Fund Administrator

The Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb., has a full-time position to assist in the design and implementation of a revolving loan fund -- a new component of the Center's Rural Enterprise Assistance Project. This project's objective is to identify and test economic development approaches for small, farming-based communities in the rural Midwest. The revolving loan fund will target small, homegrown businesses (including home- and farm-based "micro" businesses) in two to four communities in rural Nebraska.

Responsibilities may include: working directly with small, rural business owners, local lenders, and business assistance agencies; monitoring individual loan performance; evaluating overall loan fund performance; acting as liaison with the fund's steering committee; and writing for the project's newsletter, the *Rural Enterprise Reporter*. Applicants should have small business, lending or economic development experience or training. Strong writing skills and familiarity with spreadsheet programs are preferred. Applicants must have a vehicle as the position requires some local travel (mileage reimbursed). Location in northeast Nebraska will be necessary (preferably near Walthill).

The salary is \$17,000 to \$21,000 depending on experience and training. Fringe benefits include family health insurance, vacation and sick leave, staff training and pension benefits (after three years employment). The position begins Sept. 17, 1990; applications will be

reviewed immediately, but should be received no later than July 16. Send letter and résumé to Gene Severens, Center for Rural Affairs; P.O. Box 405; Walthill, Neb. 68067.

### Sustainable Ag Promotion

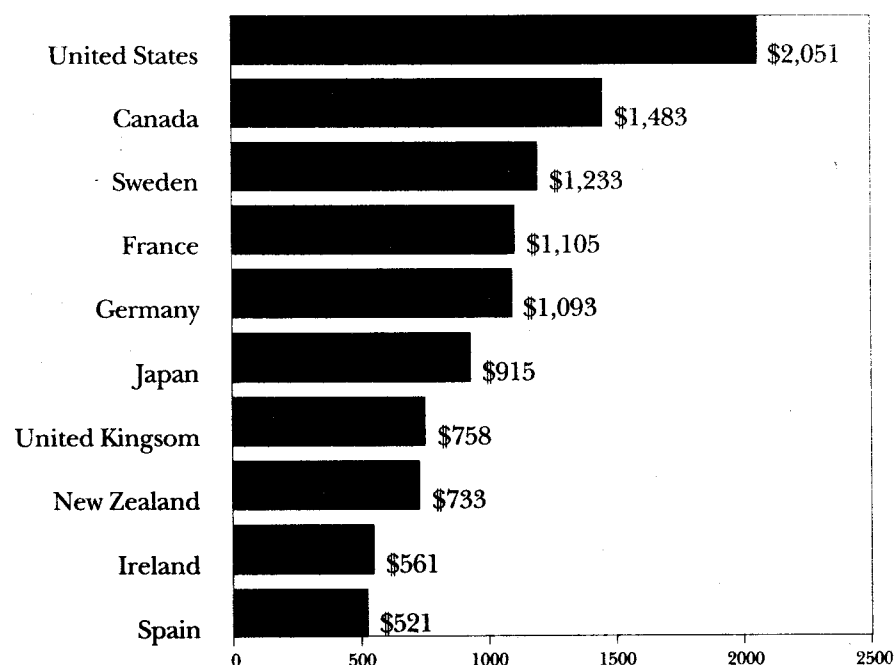
The Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb., has a job opening for a person interested in promoting opportunities for beginning, sustainable farmers. The Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to maximizing economic opportunities for individuals and improving the environment in rural communities. We are looking for a person wanting to do hard but challenging and satisfying work in rural America.

The position in our beginning farmer work requires experience in working directly with farmers, rural organizing, and farm financial planning. Experience in or an understanding of sustainable farming practices and farm management would also be useful. Responsibilities may include conducting meetings, writing, working with rural churches and farm landlords and assistance to individual farmers.

The job requires a desire to travel, work and live in rural areas. The salary will be from \$18,000 to \$21,000 depending on experience, plus liberal fringe benefits. There is no application deadline but we plan to make hiring decisions no later than October.

Persons interested in applying for this position should send a letter and résumé to Nancy Thompson, Center for Rural Affairs, Box 405, Walthill, Neb. 68067.

## Americans Pay More for Health Care



**Jane went to Viet Nam.**

# 1989's Top Ten Underreported News Stories

Now in its 14th year, Project Censored, a national media research effort conducted annually at Sonoma State University, California, locates stories about significant issues not widely publicized by the national news media.

Following are the top 10 under-reported stories of 1989 as announced by project director Carl Jensen, professor of Communication Studies at Sonoma State University:

## Global Media Lords Threaten Freedom of Information.

Five major media corporations already dominate the fight for hundreds of millions of minds throughout the world and they concede that before the turn of the century they may control most of the world's important newspapers, magazines, books, broadcast stations, movies, recordings and video cassettes.

1

## Turning Africa Into the World's Garbage Can.

Africa, already suffering from poverty, drought, famine, locusts, "contra" wars and AIDS epidemic, appears destined to become the world's toxic-waste dump as international sludge dealers try to dump U.S. and European waste onto at least 15 African countries.

2

## The Holocaust in Mozambique.

A U.S. State Department official has called the attacks by the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) "one of the most brutal holocausts against ordinary human beings since World War II." More than 1 million, mostly innocent men, women and children, have already died. RENAMO is reported to be funded by South African sources and conservative, right-wing groups in the United States and Europe.

3

## America's Deceitful War on Drugs.

The government's war on drugs is more hype than reality. One of the nation's top narcotics prosecutors quit in frustration last year after State Department officials interfered in his investigations of top people in the cocaine business. A Senate subcommittee revealed that foreign policy interests side-tracked, disrupted and undercut the "war on drugs."

4

## Guatemalan Blood on U.S. Hands.

The Bush administration strengthened ties with the oppressive Guatemalan military last year at the same time that human rights violations by the military rose sharply. One unpublicized violation occurred last year when a U.S. citizen, Sister Diana Ortiz, working as a teacher in Guatemala, was kidnapped, beaten, tortured and sexually molested by three men, one of whom was a uniformed Guatemalan police officer. The U.S. Department of State didn't register a protest.

6

## Radioactive Waste In the Neighborhood Landfill.

Radioactive waste may be joining old tires, banana peels and other regular garbage at the local landfill if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the nuclear industry implement their little-known plan to deregulate radioactive waste to "Below Regulatory Concern."

7

## Oliver North and Company Banned from Costa Rica.

In 1989, Oliver North, former National Security Advisor John Poindexter, former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Lewis Tambo, Major General Richard Secord and Joseph Fernandez, former CIA station chief in Costa Rica, were barred by President Oscar Arias from ever setting foot in Costa Rica again. A Costa Rican congressional commission concluded that the contra re-supply network in Costa Rica, which North coordinated from the White House, doubled as a drug smuggling operation.

8

## Wall Street Journal Spikes Story about CBS Bias.

The Wall Street Journal censored a major story by one of its top reporters, Mary Williams Walsh, which exposed how one of the nation's most respected TV news departments, CBS News, broadcast biased news coverage of the Afghanistan war to the American people.

9

## PCBs and Toxic Waste In Your Gasoline.

The U.S. General Accounting Office, the EPA and the FBI are investigating sophisticated "waste laundering" schemes in which hazardous toxic wastes and solvents, including PCBs, are mixed with gasoline and diesel and industrial fuel and sold to consumers.

10

## The Chicken Industry and the National Salmonella Epidemic.

The chicken industry's drive for profits, aided by relaxed inspection practices by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has led to a national epidemic of 2.5 million cases of salmonella poisoning a year, 500,000 hospitalizations, and 9,000 deaths.

## Other 'Censored' Stories

The other 15 under-reported stories of 1989 were: How the Federal Emergency Management Agency Failed the Nation; The Secret Pan Am 103 report the Media Ignored; The U.S. is Poisoning the Rest of the World

With Banned Pesticides; The U.S. Presence is Destroying the Environment in Central America; Media Reliance on Conservative Sources Debunk Myth of Liberal Bias; Faulty Computers Can Trigger World War III; RICO and SLAPP Lawsuits Endanger Free Speech Rights; NASA Lied to Get Plutonium Payload Into Space; U.S. Congress Ignored Soviet Plea for Nuclear Test Ban; The Oppression and Exploitation of Native Americans; How the U.S. and the Media Propagandized the War on Drugs; The Profitable Revolving Door Between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Polluters; Sellafield: The Largest Source of Radioactive Contamination in the World; The National Parks are in Serious Trouble; The Plaintive Case for Animal Rights.

Jensen, who created Project Censored in 1976, said, "The impact of global media lords on the free flow of information is seen in the number of critical issues which are under-covered or 'censored' by the mass media each year. The media's penchant for self-censorship and desire to avoid sensitive issues, coupled with the Bush administration, which is even more secretive than the Reagan era, deprives the public of information about issues it should know about."

To nominate a 1990 story, send a copy to Carl Jensen, Project Censored, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, Calif. 94928. Deadline for nominations is Nov. 1, 1990.

## The Investigative Journalists and Media Who Exposed the Issues

Following are the investigative journalists and media cited by Project Censored for exposing the top 10 issues overlooked or under-reported by the national news media in 1989:

1: Global Media Lords. The Nation, June 12, 1989, "Lords of the Global Village," by Ben Badikian.

2: Turning Africa Into the World's Garbage Can. In These Times, Nov. 8, 1989, "Western developmental overdose makes Africa chemically dependent," by Diana Johnson.

3: The Holocaust in Mozambique. 20/20, March 2, 1990, "Children of Terror" and "Against All Odds," by Janice Tomlin and Tom Jarriel; Renamo Watch, February 1990, "Renamo's U.S. Support"; Utne Reader, November/December 1989, "The Hidden War in Mozambique," by Kalamu ya Salaam; Mozambique Support Network Newsletter, February 1990.

4: America's Deceitful War on Drugs. NBC Nightly News, Feb. 22, 1989, by Brian Ross, Ira Silverman and Garrick Utley; San Francisco Chronicle, December 1989, "Policy Reportedly Undercut Drug War."

5: Guatemalan Blood on U.S. Hands. Guatemala Update, February 1990, "U.S. Aid Said to Encourage Rights Violations"; Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, Jan. 24, 1990, "U.S. Citizen Kidnapped and Tortured in Guatemala."

6: Radioactive Waste in Neighborhood Landfill. The Workbook, April/June 1989, "NIMBY, Nukewaste in My Backyard?" by Diane D'Arrigo and Lynda Taylor.

8: Wall Street Journal Censors Story of CBS Bias. Columbia Journalism Review, January/February 1990, "Mission: Afghanistan," by Mary Williams Walsh; Defense Media Review, March 31, 1990, "Wall Street Journal and CBS: Case of Professional Courtesy?" by Sean Naylor; The Progressive, May 1990, "Afghanistan: Holes in the coverage of a holy war," by Erwin Knoll.

9: PCBs and Toxic Waste In Your Gasoline. Common Cause Magazine, July/August 1989, "Toxic Fuel," by Andrew Porterfield.

10: The Chicken Industry and the National Salmonella Epidemic. Southern Exposure, Summer 1989, "Chicken Empires," by Bob Hall, and "The Fox Guarding the Hen House," by Tom Devine.



# PC Users Rip CommunityLink Management

by Anthony Carr

US WEST's foray into videotex, known in Omaha as CommunityLink, so far seems to be a flop with the general public. Several informed sources have told the Observer that despite expensive promotion and start-up costs (which will inevitably inflate phone bills) fewer than 2,000 terminals are in homes. When one considers that many terminals were distributed rent-free for an initial period, it would appear that US WEST is having trouble giving them away.

We at the Observer thought that, at least among computer buffs, Community Link would be popular. We were wrong. After logging on to several Omaha area computer bulletin boards, we found no unqualified praise for CommunityLink, but plenty of contempt.

What follow are electronic mail messages we gleaned over several weeks. We stripped part and/or all of the E-mail "headers" (identifying the writers) from the messages and corrected some spelling. Otherwise they are unedited.

Date sent: 03-MAY-90 16:34:58

Subject: CommunitySc..er..Link :-)

Read message? (Y,N,E,K,L,P,Q,R,S,U, or ? for help) <Y> ==> Yes

You may (A)bort or (P)ause ...

It's my understanding that the complaint Commodore owners have with Community Link is that the only software available is for the Commodore 64, but not for the Amiga. Apparantly, C-Link mentions the Amiga, but in small type, mentions that the Amiga must be equipped with the IBM PC compatible box. (Interesting concept, a \$2000 machine with a \$500 adapter so that you can emulate a really cheap, dumb terminal!)

-- Ybbat (DRBBS) 8.9 v. 3.11 r.3

\* Origin: [200:5010/662@metronet] Friend's BBS, Omaha (0:5010/662.0)

Date sent: 03-MAY-90 23:08:10

Subject: US WEST Community Link

Read message? (Y,N,E,K,L,P,Q,R,S,U, or ? for help) <Y> ==> Yes

You may (A)bort or (P)ause ...

I participated this afternoon in a lengthy survey conducted on behalf of US WEST Community Link.

Although they have called me on two prior occasions, this was the first surveyor that didn't consider my employment with US WEST Communications sufficient disqualification. Since "my" company is NOT an I.P. (Information Provider), I was allowed to participate.

I WILL say this: It certainly appears that Community Link is trying - and trying hard - to assess the needs and wants of its active and potential userbase. I was amazed at the length and detail of the survey.

My BIGGEST complaint about the service is that US WEST chose a videotex format that is NOT compatible with the established standard by which we all now communicate (usually) easily. In effect, they thumbed their nose at us and went overseas (France) and imported an amazingly inferior format (protocol?) - Minitel.

I use as my terminal program, WhiteKnight (formerly RedRyder) which is well worth the \$95 I paid for it. It allows me to effortlessly access EVERY service there is - with the lone exception of Community Link.

To use US WEST Community Link service, I had to wait a long time before I could obtain special software, provided FREE by Community Link, that would cause my Macintosh computer to emulate a \$200 Minitel terminal. My SE's 9-inch, high-resolution, monochrome monitor becomes a 7-inch, low-resolution, monochrome monitor while emulating Minitel.

My second BIGGEST complaint about Community Link was the cost. Many of the I.P.s using the gateway charge exorbitant, per minute rates. My GENIE bill is bad enough - but I have received MUCH more value for each dollar spent there than I do with Community Link.

I expressed all of these thoughts to the survey taker and he very

patiently wrote them all down. It would be really nice indeed to think that US WEST's management would take them into consideration.

The "Information Gateway" concept is one who's time has come. The technology is impressive, but the decision to saddle the end user with a non-standard, clearly inferior, interface was a wrong one.

Community Link is not going to expand their service with a few good radio spots. They are not going to gain acceptance by peddling their cheap, non-standard terminals out of one retail outlet on the second floor of the Crossroads.

Community Link's ONLY chance for success is by getting LEAN and MEAN --and IMPRESSING US - the userbase that is already up-and-running and waiting for them to meet US at least half-way.

To US WEST Community Link I say: Dump Minitel and require your I.P.s to reduce their rates by half - more in some instances. (Editor's note: US WEST charges information providers on CommunityLink 5 cents per user per minute, plus \$300 per month.) When we can speak to our friends and acquaintances as enthusiastically about Community Link's service as we do about the rest of our on-line activities, they can expect to generate new users. As it stands now, I don't think ANY modem user has anything good to say about Community Link.

Anyway, it was an excellent survey. I encourage ALL those that are contacted to participate in the survey(s). The future holds much promise - even for Community Link! Whether they "make it," or not, depends on how responsive they are to their most willing "audience" - US.

US WEST - are you listening?

-- Opus-CBCS 1.10

\* Origin: [200:5010/15@metronet] Larry's Hot Tub (1:285/15.0)

You may (A)bort or (P)ause ...

Not to worry, George! I am not in the least "upset" with Community Link. As a matter of fact, I only used it enough to get an eight dollar charge on ONE phone bill.

As a US WEST stockholder, I \*DO\* have a vested interest in their enterprises. That, combined with the fact that I am an employee of US WEST Communications \*AND\* an avid modemer, I feel completely justified to give 'em hell.

Community Link has all kinds of potential, most of which seems to have eluded the management. What DOES frustrate me is the LIKELIHOOD that those in a position to make the necessary changes are blithely unaware of their blunder(s) and/or don't even know what a modem is!!

They can survey me until they are blue in the face, but until I can log-on Community Link with the same ease with which I do other services, I will not use the service. I will NOT jump through flaming hoops just to pay an extremely high price for a service that is of questionable value to begin with.

What, me worry? It's just too bad that this thing is likely to go down the toilet without most of them even knowing why. What a waste of good technology and MONEY! JR

Read message? (Y,N,E,K,L,P,Q,R,S,U, or ? for help) <Y> ==> Yes

You may (A)bort or (P)ause ...

I did take the 15 minute survey. (We talked for about 45). The guy who took my replies said that he was ending up with most of the Computer Literates which is good because the others would not understand the "lingo". He, himself (Tom) is an avid computer user.

I was very positive toward the system and the concept but very down on the software and the cost (due to my Zoom's inability to log on to the system and the prices) ... They're passing it up the line.

One of the options offered as far as payment was a "cable TV" type of set up. A flat rate with additional charges for some services. I thought that sounded the most "economical" for everyone involved. Comments?

--\* Origin: The .COMmand Center [200:5010/23@metronet] (1:285/23) (Opus 1:5010/23)

# Help for Panama Victims of U.S. Not 'Just Cause'

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON -- Joint sessions of Congress have been held in past months for Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel. The Pole and the Czech won standing ovations, rousing fervor, for delivering speeches on their homelands and the yearnings for freedom. Two stirring moments, all in all.

Perhaps the time has come for Congress to hear another inspirational visitor from abroad. I nominate a Panamanian, Jose Salas Galindo. He, too, has a homeland where the yearnings for freedom are strong. But unless a miracle on the order of loaves and fishes occurs, Salas won't be addressing a joint

session of Congress anytime soon.

Last week, he settled for a Washington audience of a few reporters at a briefing on what the U.S. military did to him on Dec. 22, 1989. This was Operation Just Cause, the quickie war that has now become a fast-fading event of lessening foreign-policy importance to the Bush administration and of passing follow-up interest, if that, to much of the U.S. media.

On the afternoon of Dec. 22, about 18 hours after an invasion in which, by conservative count, 2,000 Panamanian civilians were killed and thousands more injured, Salas was at home in his living room in a 15-story

apartment building in the residential area of Colon. His wife Dionicia was in the kitchen cooking dinner, with two children elsewhere in the apartment.

As Salas remembers, U.S. helicopters came over the building and fired a missile into the structure. His wife died instantly: "Her body was completely destroyed, with her intestines hanging out and her legs shattered." Both children were wounded. Fire engulfed the building. Later, when his wife's corpse was taken to a funeral home, Salas recalled being told by an undertaker that the body was so bloodied and torn apart that burial clothes couldn't be put on: "They put her in a body bag and into a coffin."

It was the same rejection for Luisa Elena Lee, another Panama war victim who spoke at the Washington press briefing. The U.S. military bombarded her home, also in Colon. Shrapnel went into the brain of her son Eleutorio. Her daughter Jurisol was hit in the left eye. Two other children suffered body wounds and burns. Mrs. Lee's left arm was injured and later operated on, with severe nerve damage in the tendons.

Mrs. Lee, in her mid-20s, would also be a worthy candidate to address Congress, except that she might not be up to self-control. For most of the 15 minutes in which she told her story, her voice cracked in abject sorrow. Some reporters, unaccustomed to women weeping over their maimed children, turned away, looking blankly into their notebooks. Mrs. Lee never did get a grip on herself, and probably never will. She will always have a

brain-damaged child, and another blind in one eye. Who recovers from that?

Rather than vanish quietly, Salas and Lee were in Washington to file a complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. The fully justified complaint, joined by 68 other Panamanian civilians whose war sufferings equal or surpass the victimization of Salas and Lee, asks the United States to pay \$250 million for indemnification. The lawyers for the Panamanians are from the Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based public interest group whose post-invasion findings have led to the conclusion that the U.S. intervention broke international law, the United Nations charter and the Geneva Convention Protocols.

The Bush administration is following the U.S. pattern of selective obedience to international law. When it suits us, we obey; when it doesn't, we don't. The United States is saying no to all indemnification claims. Last week, an Americas Watch report on the Panama invasion charges that a who-cares attitude prevails: "U.S. forces are not conducting any serious examination of the weaponry and tactics used during the invasion to see if they violated fundamental rules of international humanitarian law."

Operation Just Cause hasn't been followed by Operation Just Compensation. The smallness of vision that set off the U.S. invasion is now matched by the nothingness of payments to Panama's mourning and weeping people.

(c)1990, Washington Post Writers Group



## Costa Rica Seeks Hull Extradition; CIA Man Lives on Indiana Farm

This article originally appeared in the April 1990 Just Peace newsletter.

In early February a Costa Rican judge signed an order seeking the extradition of John Hull from the United States. Hull, a CIA operator in northern Costa Rica who was paid \$10,000 a month for his part in Oliver North's network, is accused of first-degree murder in the May 30, 1984 bombing of Eden Pastora's press conference at La Penca in which four journalists were killed. Slowly all of the elements of the major thesis of the Christic Institute's RICO law suit are being confirmed independently. Hull, is safe on his farm in Indiana, having fled from Costa Rica earlier while under indictment by the Costa Rican government on charges of drug trafficking.

So far the U.S. government has given no indication that they intend to extradite the man. It has been suggested by several wags that U.S. citizens concerned about the issues of murder and drug trafficking should invite Costa Rica to invade Indiana in order to



CIA Operative John Hull

capture Hull and put him on trial. Street scenes of jubilant Indianians welcoming the invasion could be arranged.

## He Actually Made Five Million in a Single Year

Quick! Who topped the list of million-dollar winners in The Des Moines Register's annual executive salary survey?

It's our own Mike Harper.

The ConAgra CEO notched a 210 percent pay increase to (are you sitting down?) \$4,071,704, the most ever paid to an executive in The Register's survey.

In addition to the \$4.1 million in cash, bonuses and stock option gains, Harper accrued \$1,180,384 in a special pension and savings plan, bringing the total amount paid to him last year to \$5,252,088.

That \$5.3 million figure made Harper the

22nd most highly compensated executive in the nation last year, boosting him to the heady "top 25" on the list of chief executives of the nation's 800 biggest companies published in the May 28 issue of Forbes magazine. Guess that shows whose cow ate the cabbage.

Harper was the fifth-highest-paid executive in last year's Register survey, with \$1,312,450 in compensation. ConAgra's revenue during his tenure as chief executive has soared 30-fold, to an expected \$15 billion this year from \$504 million in 1976. Its profit has increased tenfold, to \$197.9 million last year from \$19 million when he took the helm.

**Don't miss a single issue!**  
When the colored stamp on the front shows up, it's time to renew. Help your independent press -- don't wait to be reminded.

# We Don't Need More Incinerators

by Tom Foster

Although there are clear advantages to recycling waste, state, county and city governments continue to choose incineration as a way out of the growing garbage crisis.

The Nebraska Legislature passed LB 163, providing funds for incinerators. The bill, said to encourage recycling efforts, was supported by many environmentalists. Incinerators, however, compete with recycling efforts for resources, since incinerators require as much paper and plastic as possible to help burn wet waste or waste with low BTU value. Often, there is either a recycling program or an incinerator in a given area -- not both.

The Sarpy County Board appointed several citizens to study incineration of the county's garbage. OPPD board member Keith Edquist has encouraged Sarpy County to build a "waste-to-energy plant" that will burn garbage and generate electricity which OPPD would purchase at a premium.

Why do environmental activists sometimes call incineration "insaneration"? Consider these reasons:

## 1: Air Pollution

No scrubber, baghouse or precipitator made can remove all dioxins, furans (toxic at five parts per billion) or mercury from the gases that go up the stack. Three acid gases, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide and nitric oxide are released into the air by the ton. These gases

produce acid rain.

Chlorine released during plastic combustion can eventually damage the ozone layer. Carbon dioxide and heat produced during incineration contribute to global warming.

## 2: Ash Disposal

The better the air pollution control equipment, the more toxic the ash becomes. Heavy metals are not changed by incineration. They either go out the stack or remain in the ash. When landfilled, these toxic materials leach as soon as the ash gets wet, contaminating ground water.

## 3: Expense

Mass-burn incinerators are purchased by county boards or city councils who, desperate to solve the garbage problem, get swept up in "the rush to burn." Often, officials listen to sales pitches from incinerator manufacturers and little else. Because the incinerators are bought in haste, there is the danger that little attention has been paid to the quality of the incinerator. A faulty incinerator could blow up within a few years. Hydrochloric acid can eat away the heat exchanger. Scrubbers can break. A government hastily spending millions on an incinerator may end up spending millions more for the cleanup when the incinerator fails.

## Landfills

Landfills are still needed for appliances,

construction debris, wet waste from restaurants, toxic ash and other waste not suitable for incineration. If built above ground and engineered to shed water rather than absorbing or capturing it, landfills can be run safely.

## The Best Solution: Recycle

Recycling, as long as toxic material is removed, is still the best alternative. A comprehensive recycling plan collecting separated plastic, metal, paper and compostables is the only environmentally acceptable way to handle the garbage. Incinerator operators, however, prefer that paper and plastic be used for fuel and that recycling efforts take second place to their expensive, high-tech approach.

## Incinerator Project Update

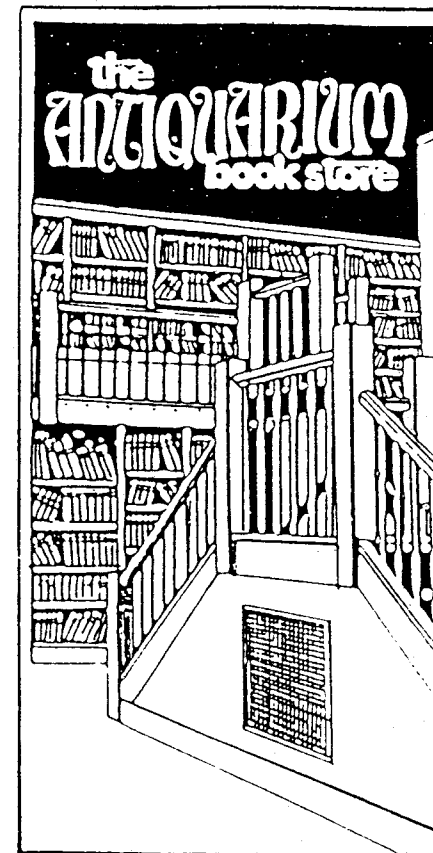
The Biowaste project proposed for east Omaha is in limbo. The incinerator ordinance recently approved by the city council and mayor allows hospitals to continue operating large medical waste incinerators in densely populated neighborhoods without air pollution control equipment until the year 2000. The law, however, makes it difficult for a commercial operator to set up shop in Omaha.

An undisclosed firm wants to build a medical waste incinerator in Greenwood, Neb., with twice the capacity of Biowaste's burner. No permit has been applied for yet.

Ash Grove Cement Co. continues to burn

*continued on page 13*

## WASHINGTON.



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# Chambers to Buckley: Fire Special Prosecutor

by Ernie Chambers

*After several months of relative silence on the subject of the Franklin child sexual abuse investigation, Sen. Ernie Chambers has again come forth with charges and demands of better handling of the investigation.*

*Friday May 25, District Court Judge James Murphy, acting on a request by special prosecutor Sam Van Pelt, issued an order to have blood drawn from the 21-year old witness-victim now at the Women's Center in York, and her child. The order indicated that there was probable cause to believe that a "sexual assault in the first degree, may have been committed." The affidavit which accompanied the order cited testimony by the 21-year old that "on various and sundry occasions, when she was a person less than 16 years of age, she was subjected to sexual penetration by \_\_\_\_\_," and that she "became pregnant and...gave birth to a baby." The blood samples were to "contribute to the identification of the individual who committed such an offense."*

*No known order existed for procuring samples from the prominent man suspected of fathering the child. No assurance was given to the 21-year old that proper procedures would be followed in obtaining such samples including the witnessing of the drawing of the blood by her representative. No explanation was given as to why blood was not being drawn from the accused first, nor were any provisions made for the safety of the 21-year old or, more importantly, her child.*

*On the following Tuesday and Wednesday, Sen. Chambers appeared on KKAR's "Talk of the Town," blasting the order and demanding that special prosecutor Sam Van Pelt be fired. (Chambers had previously criticized Van Pelt because he was not putting enough time into the grand jury commitment.) He wrote a letter to the chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court and the attorney general pointing out the illegality of the order and demanding that it be countermanded. Attorney General Robert Spire responded by issuing a stay of the Court Order. Following is the majority of the text from his letter to Judge Buckley demanding that Van Pelt be fired.*

The procurement and issuance of that nefarious order [to take blood samples] was a clear misuse and abuse of the grand jury machinery. Despite its awesome power, the grand jury may not violate the law and the constitution.

As the special prosecutor, Mr. Van Pelt was informed of his duties by way of your charge to the grand jury delivered March 19, 1990. Among other things, you charged him with the specific duty to give "advice upon any legal matter that (the grand jury) may require." Certainly, the subject matter of Judge Murphy's infamous order was a "legal mat-

ter" upon which Mr. Van Pelt had a duty to give advice.

His advice was wrong, for the order was illegal and unconstitutional.

Had Mr. Van Pelt (and Judge Murphy) simply read the statutes which were referred to in the order as the *authorization* for the order, he would have known that no such order could legally issue. Had Mr. Van Pelt or Judge Murphy taken the time to read the Supreme Court's opinion construing the law, they would have known that the order was illegal and unconstitutional.

The carelessness and lack of circumspection are appalling. The basic, fundamental rights of a young woman and her infant child were to be trampled into the dust by officers of the court.

Mr. Van Pelt was nothing less than incompetent, as was Judge Murphy.

The aborted attempt to misuse and abuse the power of the grand jury machinery is adequate basis for firing Mr. Van Pelt. He has destroyed the credibility of the grand jury, which has become an engine of oppression and lawlessness. A man of so little competence should never have been entrusted with the task of helping to guide the grand jury.

The order was vacated this morning -- in the secrecy and safety of Judge Murphy's chambers. Quite frankly, he was caught with his judicial robes down.

Rather than being honest and forthright and admitting that a terrible error had been committed in violation of the law, Mr. Van Pelt gave the news media and the public a cock-and-bull story to save face for himself and Judge Murphy. He claimed, disingenuously, that he agreed to quashing of the order because the grand jury did not want any evidence which was given "involuntarily." The order was issued *because* the young woman refused to give a blood sample voluntarily.

Mr. Van Pelt knew from the beginning that there was no voluntariness. How transparent to intone, *after* being caught with his hand in the cookie jar, that, due to the lack of voluntariness, the order should be quashed. If he is being truthful, the order never should have issued in the first place because of a lack of voluntariness.

He cannot have it both ways. You, I and everybody who knows the law, know that the order was quashed--*because it was illegal and unconstitutional*-- and not for the untruthful reason given by Mr. Van Pelt.

Judge Buckley, the public is faced with a grand jury running amok, presided over by an incompetent special prosecutor who is only too willing to misuse and abuse its power. There is a negative reflection on you and the rest of the district judges who hired this incompetent person. There is a growing feeling that he was hired *because* he is incompetent and that his incompetency would insure that the truth would never come out -- that he would bungle things so badly that no case

could be made against any alleged perpetrator.

What do you intend to do to see that action is taken against the person who (based on *probable cause* found by Judge Murphy to exist) committed the felony offense of first class sexual assault? You and other judges sat by while an illegal order was to be employed as an instrument of terrorism against an alleged *victim* and her infant child. Will you now sit by while no action is taken to bring charges against an alleged perpetrator, despite the fact that your fellow district judge (albeit, one who behaved incompetently and unlawfully) has found probable cause?

"Justice" in Douglas County is a strange bird. Whereas the coercive power of the grand jury system and the judicial system was brought to bear upon an innocent young woman and her infant child -- you, your fellow judges, the grand jury and its incompetent special prosecutor, and the Douglas County Attorney sit twiddling your collective thumbs and whistling "Dixie" while the alleged perpetrator (described as a "prominent" person) whose

conduct set the wheel rolling, is not called upon to answer for his alleged crime.

It was the failure of law enforcement agencies to do their job, in the first instance, that ultimately led to calling of this grand jury. Now, we see a blatant failure of law enforcement and judicial officials to do their job. Keep in mind, Judge Buckley, that it was *your* judicial brother who found probable cause. Why is there no action to be taken as a result of his finding?

Failure to fire Mr. Van Pelt will underscore the lack of seriousness behind this whole grand jury fiasco. And it will raise questions about the involvement and motives of Douglas County district judges.

My final query: After witnessing his incompetency, would any sane person -- including yourself -- hire Mr. Van Pelt as a lawyer to defend his/her important interests?

The public is entitled to something better.

**FIRE MR. VAN PELT!**

Sincerely,

Ernie Chambers

State Senator

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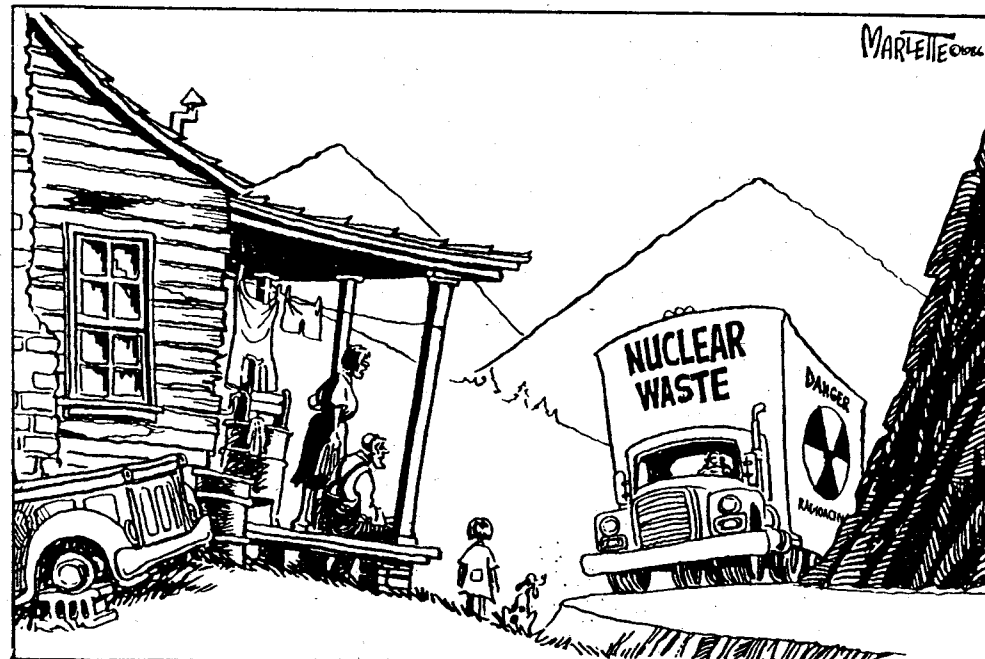
# Grand Jury: Neither Indictments nor Exoneration

In April, the grand jury impaneled to investigate charges of criminal conduct related to the possible siting of the low-level radioactive waste dump in Nuckolls County completed its findings. Although it recommended no criminal indictments, dump opponents did not consider the effort in vain. The summary of the grand jury's report, to the right, indicates that the accused were not exonerated, and that similar circumstances could have produced indictments.

Hugh Kaufman and others pointed out that the conflict when the special prosecutor is appointed by the governor to investigate people appointed by the governor. "We had a prosecutor who didn't want to prosecute," said Kaufman. Kaufman also believed that inadequate time was spent by the prosecutor to have done any investigation of the bribery charges.

On June 4 another grand jury will begin deliberation in Boyd County. The charges include bribery, obstructing government operations, violations of Open Meeting laws, oppression under color of office, conspiracy, and violation of public records

law having to do with destruction and/or removal of government records and/or property. The grand jury will select a foreman and request the governor to appoint a special prosecutor.



"REMEMBER WHEN THEY USED TO SEND US POVERTY PROGRAMS!..."

In presenting this report, the grand jury desires to emphasize that it is not in any way excusing or justifying the various persons whose conduct as aforesaid is subject to severe criticism. Certainly, the parties as here-

inbefore indicated have been guilty of some impropriety in performance of their duties which if permitted to continue could and would undoubtedly lead to serious or disastrous results. It is the hope of the grand jury that this investigation and report will sufficiently emphasize the responsibility and duty of public officials to serve as a warning for future conduct just as adequately as would the filing of a criminal complaint or charges, which could probably not be supported by sufficient evidence to procure a verdict of conviction -- with the warning that this will constitute, it is not at all unreasonable to assume that further misconduct of a similar nature would result in prosecution and conviction at least in some instances.

While there has been difference of opinion as to what action if any should be taken as to the several matters under investigation, and since an affirmative three-fourths majority is necessary to vote an indictment, no such majority having been obtained on any matter investigated, the foregoing report, in its several parts represents the majority opinion of the Grand Jury.

## Where to Recycle Oil in Omaha

The Audubon Society has provided this list of Omaha locations that will take your used oil and recycle it. The cleaner the oil is the better.

Buck's 66, 4130 Grover  
 Chaney's Conoco, 4011 Bedford  
 Davison Oil, 55th & Center  
 Dean's Standard, 301 W. Mission, Bellevue  
 Frank's Service, 603 S. 24th  
 Frost's Car Care, 7437 Pacific  
 Insta-Lube, 58th & Center  
 Insta-Lube, 8506 Maple  
 Jiffy-Lube, 48th & Leavenworth  
 Jiffy-Lube, 84th & L  
 Jiffy-Lube, 1417 Fort Crook Rd., N.  
 Jiffy-Lube, 8008 W. Dodge Road  
 Lehn Service, 601 S. 13th  
 Mockingbird Mobil, 4805 S. 108  
 Pete's Vickers, 3601 S St.  
 Price's DX, 403 W. Mission, Bellevue  
 Rocky Standard, 7202 F St.  
 Sears Southroads, Auto Center  
 Sears Crossroads, Auto Center  
 Scottsdale Service, 7152 Pacific  
 Trendwood Mobil, 2606 S. 132nd St.  
 Young's Mobil, 30th & Ames  
 J.C. Penney, Westroads, Auto Center  
 J.C. Penney, Southroads, Auto Center  
 Rent-a-Wreck, 501 N. 17

## Too Many Incinerators in Nebraska

continued from page 11

hazardous waste at its Louisville, Neb., plant.

A commercial medical waste incinerator with no air pollution equipment continues to operate outside Lincoln.

A \$10 million hazardous waste incinerator proposal by Archon Co. for Council Bluffs, Iowa, was defeated 3 to 2 by the city council, thanks to some irate Omaha residents who attended the meeting.

A medical waste incinerator may be built in Fremont or Blair, Neb., by two different companies.

Waste Tech Services has obtained its final permit for a toxic waste incinerator that was originally designed to and still might be permitted to burn Rocky Flats' nuclear waste, especially if some of its waste is reclassified as BRC (below regulatory concern), accord-

ing to John Sarich, Bellevue opponent of the proposed Kimball, Neb. incinerator

Why are all these incinerators being sited in Nebraska? For the same reason we are getting a low-level nuclear dump -- we have the weakest liability laws in the country! Our statute of repose provisions prevent prosecution after a short 10 years. We have no provision for punitive damages. If such laws had been in place in Sheffield, Ill., where a previous low level dump built by US Ecology failed, no damages would have been possible.

The governor, the Department of Environmental Control, the state Legislature, Omaha's director of Environmental Services and the Sarpy County board, among many other agencies and companies, have all been proven supporters of incinerators. Defend your community and let incinerator supporters know where you stand with your letters and votes.

### Environmentalists' note to Union Pacific:

We appreciate your offer to make the repair shop land available for use as a riverfront park. However, we hope you will clean up all the contaminants, not just the spilled fuel. We hear that every building where engine and car repair was done is loaded with asbestos. Also, that acids used for cleaning were for years disposed of by pouring them on the ground.

## a r t e x h i b i t s

**Adam Whitney Gallery**

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha  
393-1051  
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

**Antiquarium Gallery**

1215 Harney Street, Omaha  
341-8077

**Artists' Cooperative Gallery**

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha  
342-9617  
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon-5.

**Bellevue College Gallery**

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue  
293-3732  
Hours: 8-9:30 M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.  
**Through June 9**  
Senior Thesis Show.

**Bemis New Gallery**

614 So. 11th, Omaha  
341-7130  
Hours: 11-5 daily.  
**June 2**  
Opening reception for Kozo Miyoshi and Misha Gordin, 7-10 p.m.  
**June 2-July 11**  
"NE" by Kozo Miyoshi  
**June 2-August 26**  
"Shout" by Misha Gordin  
**June 14**  
Bemis Lecture at 7 p.m. with Bruce Hogeland (California; mixed-media) and Susan Martin (California; sculpture).

**Burkholder Project**

719 P Street, Lincoln  
477-3305  
Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday  
**June**  
Jeri Brainard.

**Cathedral Arts Project**

St. Cecilia's Cathedral  
701 No. 40th Street, Omaha  
558-3100  
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and by appointment.  
**Through June 3**  
The Sculpture of Rudolph Torrini.

**Creighton Fine Arts Gallery**

Creighton University  
27th and California, Omaha  
280-2509  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.

**Gallery 72**

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha  
345-3347  
**Through June 18**  
"Some New and Some Review," an assortment of new work and favorites from

past seasons.

**Garden of the Zodiac**

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard,  
Omaha.  
341-1877

**Haydon Gallery**

8th and R, Hardy Building, Lincoln  
475-5421  
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.

**Haymarket Art Gallery**

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln  
475-1061  
Hours: 10-4:30 Tues.-Sat.; 1-4 Sunday.  
Mondays by appointment.

**Hillmer Art Gallery**

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd  
Street, Omaha  
399-2621  
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

**Inter Arts Project**

2919 Leavenworth, Omaha

**Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery**

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs  
325-3352  
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
**June 4-29**  
Council Bluffs Artists Association, mixed media.

**Jewish Community Center**

333 So. 132nd St., Omaha  
334-8200  
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.

**Joslyn Art Museum**

2200 Dodge, Omaha  
342-3300  
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.  
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12.  
Free Saturday before noon and to members.  
**Through June 24**  
"Jim Dine Drawings 1973-1987."

**Local Artists Exchange**

Standard Blue  
1415 Harney, Omaha

**Museum of Nebraska Art**

24th and Central Ave., Kearney  
(308) 234-8559  
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday  
**Through June 8:** Susan Puelz.  
**June 9 - July 4** Lincoln Highway.

**Passageway Gallery**

417 So. 11th, Omaha  
341-1910

Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

**Photographer's Gallery, Inc.**

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha  
551-5731  
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

**Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery**

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln  
472-2461  
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.  
**Through June 10**  
"Night Light," an exhibit of nocturnal photographs.

**13th Street Gallery**

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha  
Mixed media

**University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery**

62nd and Dodge Streets, Omaha  
554-2686  
Hours: 8-5 Monday-Friday

**Art Institute of Chicago**

Michigan at Adams, Chicago, Ill.

(312) 443-3600

Hours: 10:30 -4:30 Mon., Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.  
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.

Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.

**Through June 25**

"Designed by the Yard -- 20th Century Pattern Repeats."

**Through June 3**

"What's New: Mexico City."

**Through July 1**

"Emilio Ambasz: Architecture, Exhibition, Industrial, and Graphic Design."

**Through July 29**

"The Gerald S. Elliott Collection."

**Through August 12**

"Monet in the '90s: The Series Paintings." Advance tickets available through Ticket-Master outlets. Charge by phone (312) 559-0200.

**Des Moines Art Center**

4700 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa  
(515) 277-4405

*Continued on next page*



"NE(ROOTS)" Silver Gelatin Print by Kozo Miyoshi. Courtesy Bemis Foundation.

## a r e a e v e n t s

**Community Action****June 21**

Concerned Parents Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church, 45th and Poppleton, 7 p.m.

**Film Series**

The Sheldon Film Theater on the University of Lincoln Campus, 12th & R, will be presenting films through the summer. Call 472-5353 for more information. June films are:

**May 31-June 3; June 7-10**

"Mystery Train," a 1989 film by Jim Jarmusch. Shows at 7 & 9:15 p.m. daily. Matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m.; Sun at 2:30 & 4:45 p.m.

**June 14-17 & 21-24**

"Sweetie," a 1989 Australian film by Jane Campion. Shows at 7 & 9:15 p.m. daily. Matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m.; Sun at 2:30 & 4:45 p.m.

**June 28-July 1**

"Black Rain," a 1989 Japanese film by Shohei Imamura. Shows at 7 & 9:15 p.m. daily. Matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m.; Sun

at 2:30 & 4:45 p.m.

**Special Events****June 10**

Garden Walk. The 23rd Annual Garden Walk tours eight gardens as a benefit for the Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute. The walk is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$6. Call 333-9758 for information.

**June 20**

Rush in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium Arena.

**June 20-24**

"Summer Mania" sponsored by the Omaha Federation of Labor at Rosenblatt Stadium's north parking lots. 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Wed-Fri; noon-1 a.m. Sat & Sun.

**June 23**

Rockbrook Children's Festival. Featuring a parade and many childrens activities at Rockbrook Village, 108th and Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Music and Dance****June 3****Through June 3**

"Warrington Colescott: Forty Years of Printmaking."

**Peace Museum**

430 W. Erie  
Chicago, IL

(312) 440-1860

Hours: noon to 5 daily; noon to 8 Thursday  
Current: "Everyone Has the Right to..."  
Art interpreting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings; "The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

**Sioux City Art Center**

513 Nebraska Street  
Sioux City, Iowa

**Terra Museum of American Art**

666 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL  
(312) 664-3939

Hours: Tues. noon to 8; Wed. - Sat. 10-5;  
Sunday noon to 5

**Walker Gallery**

Vineland Place  
Minneapolis, Minn.

(612) 375-7622

(612) 375-7636 Recording

Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.

Nuncio Pomodoro Dixieland, a free Music in the Parks concert, 6 p.m. at the east end of Central Park Mall, 10th and Farnam.

**June 10**

Norrie Egger '40s music, a free Music in the Parks concert, 6 p.m. at the east end of Central Park Mall, 10th and Farnam.

**June 17**

Odessey Brass Quintet, a free Music in the Parks concert, 6 p.m. at the east end of Central Park Mall, 10th and Farnam.

**June 24**

Full Circle, a free Music in the Parks concert, 6 p.m. at the east end of Central Park Mall, 10th and Farnam.

**Sports**

The Omaha Royals AAA baseball team plays home games at Rosenblatt Stadium, 1202 Bert Murphy Drive. For ticket information call 444-4750 or 734-2550. Home games for June are:

June 15: vs. Rochester 7:05 p.m.

June 16: vs. Rochester 7:05 p.m.

June 17: vs. Rochester 2:05 p.m.

June 18: vs. Pawtucket 7:05 p.m.

June 19: vs. Pawtucket 7:05 p.m.

June 20: vs. Pawtucket 7:05 p.m.

June 21: vs. Richmond 7:05 p.m.

June 22: vs. Richmond 2:05 p.m.

**June 1 - 9**

College World Series. The annual College World Series pits the nation's best college teams for the national championship. Held at Rosenblatt Stadium. For ticket information, call Younkers Ticket Office at 399-6591 or the Civic Auditorium at 444-4750.

**June 18**

Mutual of Omaha Pro Am Golf Tournament at Highland Country Club, 12627 Pacific. For information, Bob Krohn at 571-4009.

**Theater****June 7 - July 1**

"Enter Laughing," a farce adapted from a Carl Reiner novel about a career in the theater, is presented by the Grande Olde Players Theater, 39th and Jones. Curtain is 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$6; Senior Citizens and Students \$5. Call 551-8434 for more information.

**June 8 - July 1**

"Ruddigore," a rollicking 100-year-old Gilber & Sullivan burlesque melodrama. Queen Victoria was amused, so will you be! The Rudyard Norton Theater, 5021 Underwood, 551-7360. Curtain is 8 p.m. Thur-Sat; 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 students/seniors, \$6 for 12 and under (plus tax).

**June 8-10 & 15-17**

"Blithe Spirit," a favorite Noel Coward comedy is presented by the Bellevue Little Theater, 203 West Mission. Curtain is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. General admission is \$6, Seniors and Students \$5. Call 291-1554 for more information.

**June 19 - 24**

Circle Theater's Play Search Festival. Performances are held at Vidlak's Family Cafe, 6064 Maple Street at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 553-4715. On June 19 and 20 several short pieces by Jack Moskavich and a one act, "Good Golly It's Holly" by Marthayn Pelegrimas will be performed. On June 22-24 "The Changing Table" by Brian Kokensparger will be performed.

**June 21-24**

"Merry Wives of Windsor" presented outdoors south of the UNO Library Parking lot. Greenshow begins at 7:30 p.m., the play at 8:30. Free admission.

**June 28-July 1**

"Macbeth" presented outdoors south of the UNO Library Parking lot. Greenshow begins at 7:30 p.m., the play at 8:30. Free admission.

**June 28 - September 1**

"Murder a la Carte," a musical comedy during which the police variety show ends in murder. At the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 So. 19th Street. Call 344-7777 for reservations. The evening includes a full dinner buffet starting at 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, noon on Wednesdays and Sundays.

**Art Events****June 2 & 3**

Countryside Village Art Fair. More than 130 artists from nearly 20 states will show and sell their work at the 87th and Pacific shopping center -- plus live jazz. Free, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, 10 to 5 on Sunday.

**June 7**

Joslyn After Hours presents a behind-the-scenes tour of Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For information, 342-3300.

**June 22-24**

Summer Arts Festival with 175 artists, craftspeople and a full schedule of performing arts events over three days. Events are around the Omaha Civic Center, from 17th to 18th along Farnam. Free admission. Hours are noon to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon to 6 on Sunday. For information call 551-6557.

*Continued from previous page*

Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.;  
noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

**Museum of Contemporary Art**

237 E. Ontario  
Chicago, Ill.

(312) 280-5161

Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; noon-5 Sunday

**Museum of Contemporary Photography**

Columbia College, 600 So. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

(312) 663-5554

**The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**

4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, Mo.  
(816) 561-4000

Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.

Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 students.

Permanent collection free on Sat.

**Through June 3**

"Contemporary Illustrated Books: Word and Image, 1968-1987."

**Through June 17**

"Impressionism: Selections from Five American Museums." Features 85 paintings and sculptures by the most celebrated Impressionists and Post-Impressionists, including Manet, Degas, Cassatt, Monet, Renoir, Sisley, Cezanne, Seurat, Gauguin and Van Gogh. Advance tickets available by calling (816) 751-1331.

# Philip Morris Buys Bill of Rights Smokescreen

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON -- A new Marlboro Man, Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame, rides the cancer range. He is appearing in full-page ads that are part of a \$30 million national campaign sponsored by Philip Morris, the nation's largest tobacco company. Hesburgh isn't atop a bronco in Marlboro country, nor is he puffing a cigarette while roping dogies. Instead, he's in the promotional saddle with Philip Morris and its advertising fantasia to celebrate the coming 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

A close-up photo of photogenic Hesburgh -- square jaw, silver hair and Roman collar -- runs next to his sermonette on the Bill of Rights: the document "did not automatically guarantee life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans. We have had to enlarge our freedoms, promote human dignity, and eliminate injustice during all 200 years of the Bill of Rights. The ideal is there, but the reality has always needed enlarging. It still does."

Philip Morris' game is figurable. A company prowling for profits through sales of the addictive and lethal nicotine drug needs a cover of respectability. What to do? Buy it. Who's as respectable as good Father Ted of Notre Dame? Maybe only Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP and whose visage appears in similar Philip Morris Bill of Rights ads. Or Charlton Heston, last seen shilling for the National Rifle Association and the National Review, and now on board for Philip Morris. Or Judith Jamison of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater who says for Philip Morris that "we must keep a watchful eye" to protect the Bill of Rights.

This is a corporation, with \$4.6 billion in tobacco revenues worldwide, that deserves to be treated as a social and moral pariah. Nearly 1,000 smokers and ex-smokers die each day of tobacco diseases. That cigarettes are legal is a side issue to the main one: the absence of

marketplace ethics as Philip Morris advertises its Marlboros, Virginia Slims, Merits, Parliaments and Benson & Hedges as life-enhancing products when, by medical fact, they are death-inducing.

What kind of naïveté overtook Hesburgh? Is the lure -- or need -- of full-page publicity and money so powerful that he couldn't resist selling his name to Philip Morris' low-grade hucksters? Hesburgh, long a letterhead liberal who routinely lends his name to advisory boards of noble-cause groups -- has been in enough corporate board rooms raising money for his university to know what Philip Morris is up to. The sellers of cancer are laying out \$30 million as an investment in public approval for the company's seeming civic idealism. Hesburgh, whose university takes money from Philip Morris, aligns himself with the cigarette makers.

In a Los Angeles Times interview, the priest stresses that his appearance in the ad was not an endorsement of tobacco products: "Nobody could think that without having a wild imagination," he said. "I figured any way I can get a good word in for the Bill of Rights, that's fine."

Hesburgh's willingness to join Philip Morris as fellow lovers of liberty raises the question of who else he would appear with in his "any way I can" zeal for the Bill of Rights. What about the Playboy Foundation, run by Hugh Hefner, another Bill of Rights buff who awards First Amendment prizes to stalwarts of free speech?

The Philip Morris ads, with the subtlety of a smoker's cough, hawk the notion that the Bill of Rights is in peril. What's actually under siege is the Bill of Smoker's Rights. Cigarettes are now banned by airlines on nearly all domestic flights. Restrictions in restaurants, work sites and public places abound, with more limits ahead. Federal legislation -- the Tobacco Education and Control Act -- is being introduced this month. It would pro-

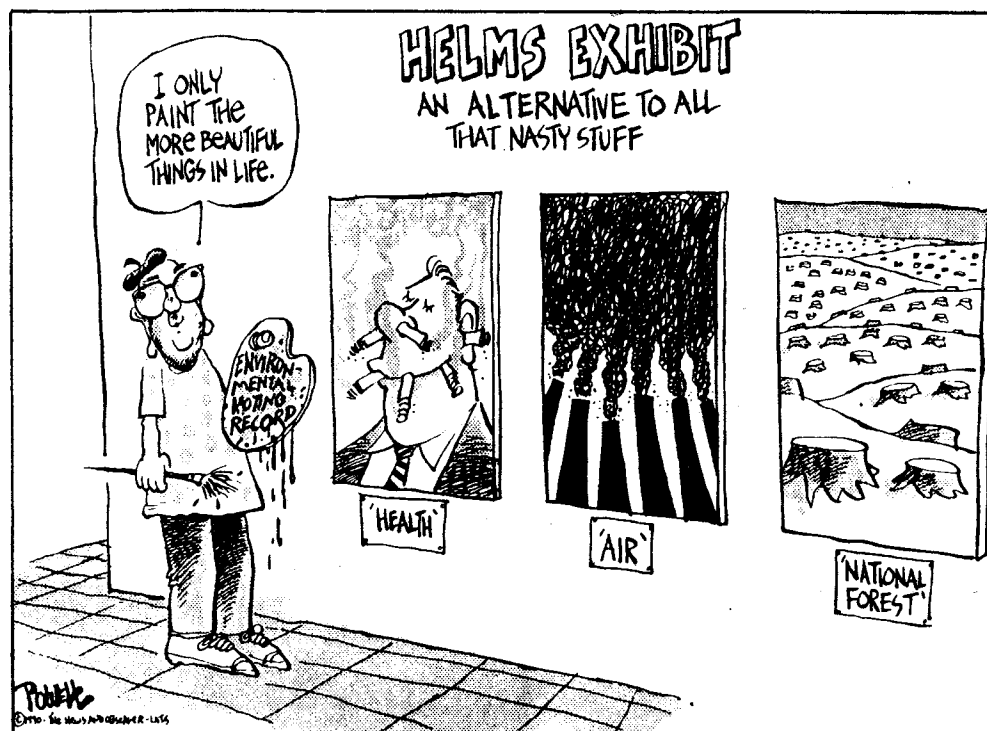
hibit vending-machine sales (a mother lode of the youth market), eliminate pictures in ads and stop the dispensing of free samples.

Philip Morris has been a power in the smokers' rights cause, a big loser in the 1980s. Three years ago it came up with "American Voices: Prize-Winning Essays on Freedom of Speech, Censorship and Advertising Bans." The self-published, self-serving 444-page book, heavier than a carton of Marlboros and twice as fummy, was presented, according to the president of Philip Morris, as "a refutation of censorship." Proposed advertising bans against

cigarettes are a threat to free speech, he believed. With tens of millions of Americans dead, dying or gasping from cigarette smoking -- what C. Everett Koop called the most documented cause of disease in history -- here is Philip Morris huckstering the bizarre notion that it is a victim.

In a companion crusade to that lunacy, the company now suckers Theodore Hesburgh, Benjamin Hooks and crew into spouting clichés on the Bill of Rights. They aren't in bed with Philip Morris, only its ashtray.

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## Philip Morris Subsidiary Sues Texas M.D.s for Distributing 'Killer Lite Beer' T-Shirts

This article originally appeared in the May 1990 Washington Monthly.  
by Charles Peters

Having seen Philip Morris's National Archives ad some 40 or 50 times, the one where the narrator gravely intones, "The freedom to say and think what we believe, to express our individuality and diversity, that's our birthright," I was astonished to learn that a Philip Morris subsidiary, the Miller Brewing Company, has sued a group of Texas doctors who ridiculed a Miller Lite promotion with t-shirts that said "Killer Lite Beer, We're Pushing a Drug." Philip Morris, if you're for free speech in peddling cigarettes and alcohol, the least you can do is support free speech for those who disagree with you.

If they're lagging a bit in their defense of First Amendment rights, the tobacco companies certainly are busy trying to buy good will by associating themselves with good causes, which in turn creates a moral dilemma on the part of the good

cause. City commissioners in Lakeland, Fla., recently rejected a chewing tobacco company's offer to finance a softball tournament. On the other hand, the District of Columbia school board, after a struggle, seems ready to accept grants from R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris.

And the American Ballet Theater has accepted, without apparent struggle, Philip Morris' sponsorship of its annual tour and anniversary celebration.

Of course, an overwhelming majority of American newspapers and magazines accept tobacco advertising without protest by their publishers -- or their reporters.

The reasoning that justifies this sort of thing is that it's permissible to take money from Satan himself if the money helps a good cause. I agree with that reasoning, but only as long as the good cause's association with Satan does not enable him to look like a good guy. The moment to get suspicious is when he starts talking about the press release.

## What this paper needs is a full time environmental reporter

If you have ideas on this subject, come to a salad supper and get in on the planning. This is an opportunity to volunteer. People with writing skills and a commitment to the environment are needed.

Salad supper  
Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.  
3719 Hamilton, Omaha